

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. Appliance for water-jet surgery, comprising a plurality of supply cylinders and pistons arrangements each defining an outlet and adapted to store a working fluid that can be expelled, by means of the piston, through said outlet; a pressure conduit in communication with said outlets and into which said working fluid is expelled; at least one actuation device to actuate the pistons; and a change-over device to shift the actuation from the piston of one supply cylinder to the piston of another supply cylinder in order that, in use, the working fluid can be ejected into the pressure conduit from consecutively emptying supply cylinders.
2. Appliance according to Claim 1, wherein said change-over device is adapted such that consecutive actuation periods of each of the pistons overlap one another in order that expulsion of the fluid into said pressure conduit is uninterrupted.
3. Appliance according to claim 1, wherein a sealing device is provided to provide a leak proof connection to each fluid outlet.
4. Appliance according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of actuation devices is provided.
5. Appliance according to claim 1, wherein each of said pistons comprises a back-flow barrier such that, after said piston has reached a position in which it has expelled said working fluid from its associated cylinder, said piston cannot be pushed back into a previous position.
6. Appliance according to claim 1, wherein an irreversibly openable transport gasket is provided at said outlet of each cylinder.
7. Appliance according to claim 1, wherein a change-over magazine is provided to receive a group of supply cylinder and piston arrangements.
8. Appliance according to Claim 7, wherein said change-over magazine defines chambers that closely surround said the supply cylinders.
9. Appliance according to claim 7, wherein collection devices are provided in the change-over magazine to conduct working fluid from said supply cylinders to said pressure conduit.
10. Appliance according to claim 1, wherein ventilation devices are provided for the removal of air from conduit sections located between the outlets of the supply cylinders and the pressure conduit.

11. Appliance according to Claim 10, wherein ventilation devices are disposed in a change-over magazine.

12. Appliance according to claim 7, wherein said change-over magazine is irreversibly connected to the pressure conduit to form a single-use unit.